



Elif Kaya

Travel writer · slow travel by train and ferry

hello@example.com · Kadıköy, Istanbul · example.com

Istanbul-based travel writer with seven years of commissioned features, a paid weekly newsletter and a rule about planes. I travel overland and by sea, keep a numbered notebook for every route and photograph my own stories.

EXPERIENCE

Travel writer and publisher

2019-03 – Present

Luna, the journal · Istanbul and the route

Commissioned features, a weekly newsletter with 3,800 paying readers and sponsored overland routes for rail and ferry operators. Twenty-four notebooks, fourteen countries, no short-haul flights since 2021.

Contributing writer

2021-01 – Present

Meridian Travel Magazine · Remote

Eight long-form features a year on overland routes across the Balkans, Italy and Iberia, each filed with my own photography.

Staff writer, city desk

2016-09 – 2019-02

Kadıköy Gazette · Istanbul

Reported the ferry timetables, the fish market and everything in between. Learned to file from a moving vehicle.

Editorial assistant

2014-06 – 2016-08

Bosphorus Press · Istanbul

Fact-checking, captions and the travel pages of a small guidebook imprint. First byline: a walk along the Golden Horn.

EDUCATION

BA Comparative Literature

2010-09 – 2014-06

Boğaziçi University · Istanbul

Thesis on the railway in the Turkish novel, which explains a lot.

Certificate in Editorial Photography

2018-02 – 2018-07

Istanbul Photography Workshops · Istanbul

Six months of evenings learning to shoot from the window of a moving train.

SKILLS

Long-form features ●●●●●

Editorial photography ●●●●○

Newsletter writing ●●●●●

Route planning and timetables ●●●●●

Public speaking ●●●●○

Filing from a moving train ●●●●●

LANGUAGES

Turkish — Native

English — C2

Italian — B2

Bulgarian — A2, mostly stations

Greek — Menu level

PUBLISHED IN

Meridian Travel Magazine

2021 - present

Features on the Belgrade to Bar line, Puglia by rail and the Sporades by ferry

Rail and Sea Quarterly

2023 - present

Columnist, "The Timetable"

A quarterly column on one overlooked route and why it deserves a night.

Aegean Review

2025

Photo essay, "Ferries of the Sporades"

Slow Travel Almanac

2024

Contributor, Balkans chapter

PROJECTS

The Slow Route, a weekly newsletter

example.com/newsletter

One stop, one photograph, one timetable, every Thursday. 3,800 paying readers.

Night trains of the Balkans, a route map

example.com/map

A hand-drawn map of every overnight line I have taken, updated each season.

Notebook talks

A talk on keeping a travel notebook you will actually reread, given at three festivals and one bookshop.